



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

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June 14, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF FEDERAL ELECTION REFORM LEGISLATION –  
REPORT OF ELECTION CENTER'S TASK FORCE**

Members of a conference committee were appointed last month to work on reconciling the significant differences between the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate versions of election administration reform legislation that passed the House in December 2001 (HR3295) and the Senate in April 2002 (S565). Fortunately, several of the conferees' staff members have actively sought the input of local and state election administrators in this on-going process.

As you may recall from my previous memos on this subject, the Election Center, a national organization of election administrators, invited 37 of its state and local election official members, including myself, to participate on a Task Force. The Task Force has been providing assistance to Congress in understanding the significant ramifications of the wide range of new federal mandates that are contained in these bills. Yesterday the Task Force issued the attached comprehensive report<sup>1</sup> that focuses on key implementation issues surrounding this legislation. Among a wide range of concerns, all members of the Task Force agree that the proposed funding authorization of these bills is insufficient to cover the costs of the mandates.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, the National Association of Counties (NaCo), together with four other national organizations of state and local government officials<sup>3</sup>, issued a letter on June 6, 2002 to the conferees listing major concerns regarding key provisions of this legislation. A copy of that letter is also enclosed.

**Attachments**

c: CAO

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<sup>1</sup> It supplements the Task Force's initial report, issued in July 2001, entitled "Election 2000: Review and Recommendations by the Nation's Election Administrators"

<sup>2</sup> A key example is the proposed expansion of the multiple ballot language requirements (pages 8-9) in which Los Angeles County is used to illustrate the current costs and potential increases in this area.

<sup>3</sup> National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC) and the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT)